

Mount Rushmore National Memorial

Visitors hear studio talk. Photo by Jim Popovich, Mount Rushmore National Monument.

The Mount Rushmore museum collection consists of historic photographs and film, tools and equipment, oral histories, archives and artifacts from the memorial's construction era (1927-1941), contemporary dedications, and special events.

Objects from the collection are viewed regularly in exhibits by the nearly three million visitors who come to Mount Rushmore each year. Objects from the collection are also on view at Crazy Horse Mountain Memorial and the Rushmore-Borglum Story, located near Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, and at The Western Village/Nikko National Park in Nikko, Japan.

The historic photographs are used frequently by writers, illustrators, advertising companies, filmmakers, publishers, and teachers who are using Mount Rushmore as subject matter in a variety of media.

Within the past year, the newly formed Mount Rushmore History Association used the photographs to produce a series of sepia toned postcards and 8"x10" enlargements under "The Rushmore Collection" trademark, a poster showing Mount Rushmore before and after the construction of the memorial, and a children's book called *A Sculptor's Son—Lincoln Borglum and Mount Rushmore*. Proceeds from the sale of these items will help fund educational projects at the memorial.

This great demand for access to the historic photographs led to the establishment of a photo database which allows researchers to search images by their content. The curatorial staff at Mount Rushmore generated data fields and a key word list based on the collection to make image searches more efficient and rewarding. This demand for historic photos also resulted in the creation of a complimentary photo file.

Over the years, the collection has also provided historic footage and still images for the production of a video for the Mount Rushmore Orientation Center and a film for the Mount Rushmore Evening Program. Information from the collection about the workers and historic structures at Mount Rushmore has been the basis for many site bulletins and interpretive programs as well as the two most comprehensive histories written on the memorial, *The Carving of Mount Rushmore* by Rex Allen Smith and *Mount*

Rushmore by Gilbert C. Fite.

Presently, the museum collection is being used to design an extensive new exhibit center in conjunction with a privately-funded redevelopment of facilities at the memorial. It was also the focal point for a museum internship program at the memorial which was offered to undergraduate and graduate students beginning in the fall of 1995.

Jim Popovich is the Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services at Mount Rushmore.

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Scott Pawlowski

Little Bighorn National Monument

In 1993, 35 visiting researchers used Little Bighorn National Monument's (LIBI) archival resources, swelling to 55 researchers in 1994. One such researcher was Rick Burns of Steeple Chase Film Inc. While creating the documentary "The Way West," film producer Burns used Little Big Horn's photographic archives for primary source material from 1845-1893. Forty-five minutes of the six-hour documentary used park historic and contemporary images detailing the settlement of western states. The documentary was recently shown on public television.

Scott Pawlowski is a co-op student from the University of Colorado. He is the curator for the Colorado Plateau System Support Office and the archives technician for the Rocky Mountain System Support Office.